

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11 (Cancelled)

12 (Currently amended) A liquid-crystal switching or display device comprising a chiral smectic liquid-crystal mixture in monostable alignment, characterized in that the ratio Δ/Θ of the angle between the rubbing direction and the smectic layer normal to the tilt angle in the liquid-crystal mixture is at least 0.41, or in that the liquid-crystal mixture has the phase sequence I-N-C and the angle ρ between the rubbing direction and the monostable position is at least 1°, or in that the liquid-crystal mixture has the phase sequence I-N-C and the difference of the tilt angles, measured at 15°C and 5°C below T_c , wherein T_c is the upper limit of the range of existence of the optically active smectic phase which is less than 9.5°.

13 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the liquid-crystal mixture has the phase sequence I-N-C and the tilt angle Θ at 25°C is between 19° and 39°.

14 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the mixture has a spontaneous polarization of less than 150 nC/cm².

15 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the device is an active-matrix or passive-matrix display.

16 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the chiral smectic liquid-crystal mixture has the following properties:

phase sequence I-N-C and

T_c is greater than 50°C and

wherein T_{NI} is phase transition temperature from the nematic to the isotropic phase less than 105°C and

$19^\circ < \text{tilt angle (25°C)} < 39^\circ$ and

spontaneous polarization less than 150 nC/cm^2 and

pitch of the cholesteric helix greater than $2 \mu\text{m}$ and

the difference of the tilt angles measured at 15°C and 5°C below T_c , the upper limit of the range of existence of the optically active smectic phase, is less than 9.5° .

17 (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the chiral smectic liquid crystal mixture comprises of nitrogen- or sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds in an amount which is at least 20% by weight of total said mixture.

18 (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the chiral smectic liquid crystal mixture comprises at least one sulfur-containing heterocyclic compound which is a thiophene derivative.

19 (Cancelled)